

CITY OF EAST CHICAGO  
DEPARTMENT OF WATERWORKS

BOARD MEMBERS

John Bakota, President  
Henry Ventura, Vice President  
Joseph Ochoa, Member  
Anthony Askounis, Member  
Ray Lopez, Member

Regular Meeting Minutes  
Monday, September 18, 2023 @ 5:00 p.m.  
Reported for Fissinger & Associates  
By: Lisa Pena

CALL TO ORDER: 5:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLIANCE:

ROLL CALL: Present in Chambers: John Bakota, Henry Ventura,  
Joseph Ochoa, Anthony Askounis, Ray Lopez

STAFF PRESENT: In Chambers: Ateria Allen, Winna Guzman,  
Rebecca Sliger

Present Via Zoom: Joseph Allegretti

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: September 7, 2023

Motion to approve September 7, 2023 Meeting Minutes made by  
Joseph Ochoa. Second by Anthony Askounis.

Comments/Questions: None.

Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None  
Opposed: None Motion Carries.

APPROVAL OF WARRANTS:

Payroll

MR. BAKOTA: Next is Approval of Warrants, Payroll.  
091523 \$12,921.96. This is Utilities Payroll of 8/26/23  
through 9/8/23.

1 Motion to approve Warrant 091523 Utilities Payroll 8/26/23  
2 through 9/8/23 made by Henry Ventura. Second by Anthony  
Askounis.

3 Comments/Questions: Can I ask where our reporter is?

4 MS. ALLEN: On zoom.

5 MR. BAKOTA: Shouldn't she be here in person? We're  
6 paying her for that. I mean we approved their contract.  
What's the point? What's the contract?

7 Did I get a vote on that?

8 Approval of Warrant 091523 in the amount of  
9 \$44,544.79. This is Payroll from 8/26/23 through 9/8/23.

10 Motion to approve Warrant 091523 Utilities Payroll 8/26/23  
11 through 9/8/23 made by Joseph Ochoa. Second by Anthony  
Askounis.

12 Comments/Questions: None.

13 Accounts Payable

14 MR. BAKOTA: Next is Accounts Payable. 090823 WB in the  
amount of \$144,029.69.

15 Motion to approve Warrant 090823 WB made by Henry Ventura.  
16 Second by Ray Lopez.

17 Comments/Questions: None.

18 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None  
Opposed: None Motion Carries.

19 MR. BAKOTA: Account 090823 WU in the amount of  
20 \$27,411.15.

21 Motion to approve Warrant 090823 WU made by Ray Lopez.  
22 Second by Joseph Ochoa.

23 Comments/Questions: None.

24 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None  
Opposed: None Motion Carries.

25 MR. BAKOTA: Account 091823 WT in the amount of \$563.07.

1 Motion to approve Warrant 091823 WT made by Anthony Askounis.  
2 Second by Henry Ventura.

3 Comments/Questions: None.

4 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None  
5 Opposed: None Motion Carries.

6 MR. BAKOTA: Account 090723 CD in the amount of  
7 \$7,263.33.

8 Motion to approve Warrant 090723 CD made by Joseph Ochoa.  
9 Second by Ray Lopez.

10 Comments/Questions: None.

11 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None  
12 Opposed: None Motion Carries.

13 MR. BAKOTA: Account 091823 WB in the amount of  
14 \$98,893.23.

15 Motion to approve Warrant 091823 WB made by Ray Lopez.  
16 Second by Joseph Ochoa.

17 Comments/Questions: None.

18 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None  
19 Opposed: None Motion Carries.

20 Filtration Report: None.

21 Water Report: None.

22 Distribution Report:

23 MR. OCHOA: I have a question on this. They have 56  
24 houses that have no meters on Walsh and Homerlee \$100,000.  
25 Is that the cost to install these meters?

MS. GUZMAN: Yes. They're going to be putting, placing  
it outside. So that's the cost of that.

MR. OCHOA: Who signed off on this job?

MS. GUZMAN: Well, what happened is the City hired a  
contractor. And as stated we did the roadway, reconstructed  
the whole roadway.

1           They did not replace those meters. So we're  
2 backtracking trying to get that completed.

3           MR. OCHOA: So they just don't have any meters then,  
4 right?

5           MS. GUZMAN: We're estimating them at this time. They  
6 are being estimated. But they do not have any meters.

7           So we're actually requesting funds from the  
8 Redevelopment side to perform that work.

9           MR. OCHOA: As the Water Department we don't have the  
10 money at all?

11          MS. GUZMAN: We don't have the funds for that, no.

12          MR. VENTURA: Winna, we're estimating them. Is it going  
13 okay?

14          MS. GUZMAN: We're estimating them on a monthly basis.  
15 They're getting a bill. But again it's not accurate.

16          MR. VENTURA: Thank you.

17          MS. GUZMAN: You're welcome.

18          MR. BAKOTA: Any other questions?

19          Legal Counsel:

20          MR. ALLEGRETTI: ~~Good-afternoon.~~ Last week Director  
21 Guzman and I met with our finance team and our engineering  
22 team about our upcoming Public Works projects.

23          Miss Allen passed out four invitations for bids for  
24 our four upcoming Public Works projects. The bids are going  
25 to be opened at our meeting on October 12.

          The four as you can see are for the fire  
suppression system, bids for the high service pumps, the  
service line replacement and the Roxana water extension  
project.

          So just to keep the Board informed that's what's  
going on.

          These projects are part of our current financing  
plan which as I stated at our last meeting we intend to close

1 that bond issue around Thanksgiving time.

2 So there will be additional, much more additional  
3 activity. And I will be reporting and Winna Guzman will be  
reporting in the weeks to come. Thanks.

4 MR. BAKOTA: Are there any questions?

5 Financial Report: None.

6 Resolutions:

7 MR. BAKOTA: Next under New Business is Resolutions.  
8 WD 23-23 a Resolution of the Board of East Chicago Department  
of Waterworks authorizing the disposal of surplus property.

9 It's in your package.

10 Motion to approve Resolution WD 23-23 made by Henry Ventura.  
11 Second by Anthony Askounis.

12 Comments/Questions: None.

13 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None  
Opposed: None Motion Carries.

14 MR. BAKOTA: Resolution WD 23-24 a Resolution of the  
15 Board of Trustees of the East Chicago Water Department  
authorizing the transfer of appropriations into different  
16 budget categories, Water.

17 The transfer is \$61,000.

18 Motion to approve Resolution WD 23-24 made by Ray Lopez.  
19 Second by Anthony Askounis.

20 Comments/Questions: None.

21 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None  
22 Opposed: None Motion Carries.

23 Rate Sheets:

24 MR. BAKOTA: Next is Rate Sheets. Hasse Construction  
25 2023 to 2024 time and material rates not to exceed \$150,000.

1 Motion to approve Hasse Construction 2023/2024 Rate Sheet  
made by Anthony Askounis. Second by Joseph Ochoa.

2  
3 Comments/Questions: None.

4 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None  
Opposed: None Motion Carries.

5 MR. BAKOTA: Next is Devine Landscaping 2023 to 2024  
6 snow removal rates not to exceed \$5,000.

7 Motion to approve Devine Landscaping 2023/2024 Rate Sheet  
made by Henry Ventura. Second by Anthony Askounis.

8 Comments/Questions:

9 MR. OCHOA: This Devine Landscaping for snow removal, do  
10 they charge us by the time they come out here?

11 MS. GUZMAN: By the push, per push. It's specified at  
the bottom as well.

12 MR. OCHOA: So I guess we owe them \$5,000 right off the  
13 bat?

14 MS. GUZMAN: No. It's per push. So if it doesn't snow,  
they don't get paid. If it snows or they need to come salt  
15 because of the ice, then they'll submit a bill thereafter.

16 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None  
Opposed: None Motion Carries.

17 Proposals:

18 MR. BAKOTA: Next is Hasse Construction. Revised block  
19 containment wall number 2 at the old Filtration Plant,  
\$7,415.

20 Motion to approve Hasse Construction Revised Block  
21 Containment Wall Proposal made by Anthony Askounis. Second  
by Henry Ventura.

22 Comments/Questions:

23 MR. OCHOA: Are these repairs?

24 MS. SLIGER: No. This is an actual concrete wall.  
25 Little kind of like area that they're setting up so that he  
can get stone and dirt and things like that that he needs to

1 be able to facilitate some of the repairs so that we can do  
2 some things in house.

3 MS. GUZMAN: And they'll be stationed at Filtration.

4 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None  
5 Opposed: None Motion Carries.

6 Past Due Invoices:

7 MR. BAKOTA: Next is Past Due Invoices. Fissinger and  
8 Associates \$251.50.

9 Reason invoice was received on September 11, 2023.  
10 After reviewing the monthly statement finding that it had not  
11 been processed.

12 Motion to approve Fissinger & Associates Past Due Invoice  
13 made by Henry Ventura. Second by Joseph Ochoa.

14 Comments/Questions: None.

15 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None  
16 Opposed: None Motion Carries.

17 MR. BAKOTA: Next is Lindy's Ace Hardware \$42.96.

18 Invoice was processed by Water Department, but not  
19 by the Controller's Office.

20 Motion to approve Lindy's Ace Hardware Past Due Invoice made  
21 by Ray Lopez. Second by Joseph Ochoa.

22 Comments/Questions: \_\_\_\_\_

23 MS. GUZMAN: I am sorry, Mr. President. But we need to  
24 reference the invoice number and date and the amount as well  
25 on both.

26 MR. BAKOTA: I am sorry. I'll just backtrack on that  
27 one.

28 The first one was Fissinger and Associates. And  
29 that invoice number is 24343. And the amount is \$251.50.  
30 The invoice date was 7/15/23.

31 And on Lindy's Ace Hardware the invoice number is  
32 223762. Their invoice date was 6/20/23. And the amount was  
33 42.96.

1 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None  
2 Opposed: None Motion Carries.

3 Other:

4 MR. BAKOTA: The Other is FYI. It's an IDEM  
5 notification letter regarding management change at the  
6 Filtration Plant.

7 And that's Mr. Thomas Kowal is Interim Plant  
8 Manager.

9 UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

10 PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

11 \* Next Regular Meeting Date: Monday, October 2,  
12 2023 @ 5:00 p.m.

13 Motion to adjourn made by Joseph Ochoa. Second by Henry  
14 Ventura.

15 Roll Call: "All in Favor": All Abstain: None.  
16 Opposed: None Motion Carries.

17 \* Meeting ended at 5:14 p.m.

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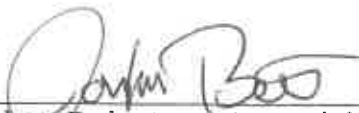
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1 Approval of the Meeting Minutes of  
2 Monday, September 18, 2023  
3 Approved and Signed October 2, 2023  
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6 \_\_\_\_\_  
7 John Bakota, President

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10 Henry Ventura, Vice President

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13 Joseph Ochoa, Member

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17 \_\_\_\_\_  
18 Anthony Askounis, Member

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21 Ray Lopez, Member

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24 \_\_\_\_\_  
25 Ateria Allen, Board Secretary


C E R T I F I C A T E

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I, Lisa Pena, a competent and duly qualified court reporter, do hereby certify that I did report in machine shorthand the foregoing proceedings and that my shorthand notes so taken at said time and place were thereafter reduced to typewriting under my personal direction.

I further certify that the foregoing typewritten transcript constitutes minutes of said proceedings taken at said time and place, so ordered to be transcribed.

Dated at Portage, Indiana, this 26th day of September, 2023.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Lisa Pena  
Notary Public Porter County  
Certified Shorthand Reporter  
License Number 084-003483

